



# The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



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Volume 23 (4)

October 1997

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Ramos

Greetings! I hope that this newsletter reaches all of you well and in good spirits. It is odd to be writing this message for the Fall without having attended the annual meeting. After hearing John Prentice's report at the last ExCom meeting, I am convinced that this meeting will continue in improving upon the quality of our annual gathering. Realizing that we are all busy working on end of the year reports or planning for Fall and Winter activities, I am asking you to consider submitting an abstract for a presentation. Our meeting is only as good as the presentations being submitted.

Since our July ExCom meeting we have received numerous positive responses from Texas legislators regarding our support of the Teaming With Wildlife Initiative. All fifty states are involved at differing levels of commitment. I encourage all of our members to make an effort to contact your local legislators and be available to answer their questions on how this initiative would affect their district. I recently had the opportunity to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in Oklahoma City and was impressed by the diversity of presentations and topics covered in the technical sessions and special sessions. Judging by the comments of other attendees and hosts, it was a huge success. I couldn't help but reflect on a discussion held at our ExCom meeting regarding the registration fee for our annual meeting. Everyone has differing viewpoints. Should we charge a fee to make the meeting pay for itself? Should we charge more to try and make money? There are even those that feel that there

should be no registration fee. What factors should we use to determine a fair value for the quality of meeting: meeting rooms, socials, meals, quality of technical sessions, quality of panel discussions...etc? These questions are very reflective of the growing pains that we are experiencing as a group. It is like a small town trying to attract big, cutting edge businesses but not sure whether they want to upgrade the streets to handle the increased traffic. In the years that I have been associated with the ExCom we have tried to provide a high quality meeting and hold the cost to a minimum so as not to exclude any fisheries professional or student. I would like to see these efforts continue. After all, our mission is to provide a forum for information exchange and professional development within our state. Having said all of this, I feel that we will continue to be as cost conscious as possible during the planning stages and keep costs down to a reasonable level. There may come a time though, when the membership will have to decide if sacrificing quality for economy is worth it. I invite your comments and ask those with strong feelings to become involved in future meetings. Please make plans to attend our meeting January 25-27, 1998 in Athens, Texas and take advantage of the great continuing education opportunities, technical sessions and panel discussions. You will also have a chance to spend time visiting the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Committee Members Needed

A number of our committees consist of only one individual. We need your participation to keep the chapter effective and in touch. Please contact the committee chairs and volunteer.

Publicity/Exhibits - Steve Poarch (903) 593-5077  
Nominating - John Moczygemba (903) 786-2389  
Membership - Debbie Wade (903) 592-7570  
Continuing Education - Bruce Hysmith (903) 786-2389  
Issues - Mike Reed (512) 547-9712  
Endowments - Allen Forshage (903) 676-2277  
Student Outreach - Fran Gelwick (409) 862-4172  
Exotic Species - Stewart Jacks (512) 991-1443  
Fisheries Workers Directory - Lance Robinson (713) 474-2811  
Stocks at Risk - Gary Garrett (210) 866-3356  
Pond Management - Malcolm Johnson (512) 396-1231  
Awards - Gene Wilde (806) 742-3518  
Editorial - Joe Fries (512) 353-0011

**Notice! Active participation in the Chapter will help you get and retain your certification!**

## Annual Meeting Publicity/Exhibits

*Steve Poarch and Kirk Pratas*

Things are really starting to take shape for the 1998 raffle/auction and meeting. Raffle/auction items are beginning to stack up in the office and exhibitor spaces are starting to sell. We are hoping to get ten exhibitors this year. So far, we have Lakeside Jewelry (sterling silver fish belt buckles), Hyrdrolab (water quality meters), and Aquanaut Diving (SCUBA gear and instructions). The layout of booth spaces at the Cain Center looks to be very conducive for the exhibitors.

While we have already collected a considerable stack of donated items, there is still a need for more. We would like to have each chapter member donate or secure a donation of at least one item. It doesn't take long to stop at your local sporting goods store and we have found most people are very receptive to our

requests. With over 200 members, we should be able to acquire too many items to raffle in one night. If you would like a copy of the request letter that we are using, just give us a call (903-593-5077) or e-mail us at [tpwdif3b@gower.net](mailto:tpwdif3b@gower.net).

We are already planing the types of raffles/auctions for this year's meeting. We hope to build on the successful, innovative methods used by Richard Ott and Jody Williams last year. If you have any ideas that you think would improve this event, we would love to hear them.

We have already initiated something new for this year. It is our feeling that regardless of the quantity and quality of items in our chapter raffle/auction, our income is fairly limited. In order to substantially increase our intake, we are going to have to tap into sources outside of the chapter by selling raffle tickets inside and outside of the chapter for a large raffle item. This year's item is a fully rigged 2-man bass boat (Buster Boat) with trailer, (\$2,000 value). Tickets are \$5.00each or 5 for \$20.00. We displayed the boat and sold tickets at EXPO '97. Now the membership is encouraged to obtain tickets from us to buy and/or sell. The drawing will be held at our social in Athens on January 26, 1998. To make this work, we are going to need the help and support of the membership. If every member will buy and/or sell 2 tickets, we will double our investment. Give us a call and we'll send you tickets. If you are participating in a special event, where it might be helpful to display the boat or a picture of the boat, let us know in advance and we'll try to make arrangements.

Interested in helping? Contact Steve or Kirk at (903-593-5077) or [tpwdif3b@gower.net](mailto:tpwdif3b@gower.net).

Following is a partial list of raffle/auction items. Other items are pledged but not yet received. We hope to publish a complete list of items and how they are going to be handled (raffle, can raffle, silent auction, auction, etc.). This will help you plan ahead and bring enough money to get the things you want.



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## Donated Items List for 1998 Meeting

Brinkman Smoker/grill & accessories  
Wal-Mart - Sulphur Springs  
Sterling Silver Bass belt buckle  
Lakeside Jewelry  
Life Jacket & 2 Skeeter caps  
Dale's Marine  
Life Jacket  
Boat Center  
Ambassador 5500C  
Kelly Pratas  
2 subscriptions, 2 hats, Randy White art  
Honey Hole  
Quantam Rod and Browning reel  
Brannon's Bass Shop  
2 free nights of tent or RV camping  
Stella's Campground - Lake Fork  
\$50.00 Gift Certificate  
Wal-Mart - Athens  
Portable Gas Grill  
Tractor Supply Company - Athens  
Die-cast metal tractor  
Tractor Supply Company - Canton  
Golf Balls and 1st aid kit  
Wal-Mart - Paris  
BPS Rod & Reel, Tackle Bag & boxes  
bass kit, panfish kit  
Bass Pro Shops  
Lake Fork 1 day guided trip  
Marc Mitchell  
2 free admissions  
The Science Place and IMAX Theater  
4 free admissions (2 adult and 2 youth)  
Dallas Zoo & Dallas Aquarium  
Various caps and shirts  
anonymous donors  
TFFC Soup Bowls  
Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center  
Stren line, Stren cap, and Stren shirt  
Remington Arms Company

## F.I.S.H.

### Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat

A new angler organization known as "F.I.S.H." has been formed. This group is concerned with the management of aquatic habitat, namely vegetation, in Texas' public waters. They have an Internet site, which explains their organization and mission at [procorp.com/hh/h14001.htm](http://procorp.com/hh/h14001.htm). Texas fisheries professionals might wish to visit the site to become familiar with this new conservation organization. The following is directly from the web site.

#### ORGANIZATION GOALS

Achieving ecological balance in nature does not have to include destruction of habitat for fish and birds. Environmentally responsible administration on the part of lake authorities must be accomplished.

The main goal of this organization is to serve at grass roots levels to monitor, and combat when necessary, political or fisheries bureaucracies plans that carry potential damage to fish and bird habitat through the destruction of aquatic plants such as hydrilla. Unfortunately, TP&W officials have already launched campaigns on local levels to bass clubs and others proclaiming hydrilla should be totally eradicated. We do not believe this is necessary, nor good for the lakes where fish and birds thrive because of it.

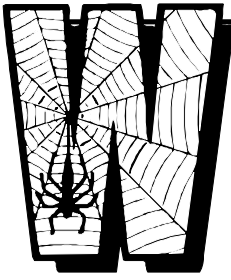
FISH has no membership dues. Members will be notified of impending projects to destroy habitat and asked to add their voices to our own to use the weight of our voices to influence lake authorities to utilize alternative methods for controlling hydrilla. Grass carp are undesirable and unacceptable, as is the use of poisons such as Sonar. Other states have found ways to harvest and resell hydrilla overgrowth for fertilizer and other useful things. In Texas and nationwide these types of alternatives must be used to preserve habitat for fish and birds.

#### FISH Advisory Board Members

Terry Oldham, Mike Hastings, David Stewart, Jonny Vick, Phillip Walker, Debra Dean

F.I.S.H. is a member of the B.A.I.T. Coalition

Better Aquatics In Texas, environmental and health advocates working on the herbicide/habitat issue



# EBSTER'S WORDS

## WEB SITE REVIEWS

Estuarine Research Federation <http://erf.org/>

The Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) is an international organization whose purpose is to promote research in estuarine and coastal waters, to promote communication between members of affiliated societies, to conduct meetings and to be available as a source of advice in matters concerning estuaries and the coastal zone. The similarity and diversity of estuaries is also characteristic of the Estuarine Research Federation, a multidisciplinary organization of individuals who study and manage the structure and functions of estuaries and the effects of human activities on these fragile environments.

The Federation's members are dedicated to advancing human understanding and appreciation of the Earth's estuaries and coasts, to the wise use and management of these environments and to making the results of their research and management actions available to their colleagues and to the public. Members of the Federation include academic researchers, public sector managers, teachers, consultants, students and others who are interested in estuaries.

The Estuarine Research Federation is a private, nonprofit non-partisan organization. The Federation was created in 1971, when the members of two older, regionally based estuarine research societies (AERS and NEERS) decided that a national organization was needed to address estuarine and coastal issues more broadly. The regionally based Affiliate Societies now number five and encompass all of the coastal regions that border the United States, Canada and Mexico.

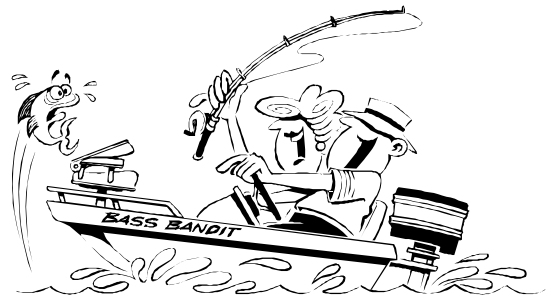
This site has a lot of information for coastal area fisheries people. The main page has limited articles (the journal has a contents listing only), but there is information available through the links to the regional societies. This site does have a good job and news section and listings of meetings related to estuaries. For those interested, there is a printable application for membership available online with information about the benefits of membership. I would like to see more online information such as selected articles from the journal, but overall, it is a very informative site and worth a visit.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS [http://www.hcn.org/home\\_page/](http://www.hcn.org/home_page/)

This is a unique publication primarily concerned with the western US. Its stated purpose is to foster a caretaking philosophy in the West by exploring conservation ethics and values through the dissemination of information. It is a publication of a non-profit, tax exempt organization engaged in the dissemination of information about proposals or activities that affect the natural environment and heritage of the Rocky Mountain West.

The main publication is the High Country News, a bi-weekly, regional independent newspaper. As a forum for environmental issues that transcend state borders, it seeks to focus on natural resource and public lands issues from a regional perspective. The primary media coverage area includes rural Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada, with secondary emphasis on Oregon, Washington and the Western Plains (Dakotas, Nebraska), and occasional reporting on events or issues in other states that may be pertinent to or affect the Rocky Mountain West. The Foundation believes that information, education and understanding lead to responsible public participation and constructive change and through its media activities seeks to explore and promote conservation ethics and values in a manner that will foster a caretaking philosophy in the West to serve present and future generations.

The web page includes access to lots of articles concerning western fisheries. The collections section covers topics like the Animas-La Plata Dam, Land Grant Universities, and a Water Resources Primer (this area has lots of interesting perspectives and editorials). The site includes a topic index where you can find articles on a number of subjects. The fish section covers a wide variety of information on endangered species, and also the fishing industry (including government), and the National Marine Fisheries Service. If you like a no-nonsense approach to natural resource reporting, you'll like this page.



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## ATTENTION STUDENTS

Students are encouraged to get their abstracts and registration sent in ASAP because:

- Four motel rooms (2 for men, 2 for women, 4-5 per room or to be adjusted according to applicants) are available at no charge on a FIRST COME basis for students who sign up to work during the conference on registration, running projectors, being runners for messages and other odd jobs.
- Also, student presentations will be judged for best paper awards to be announced at the meeting.
- Students are encouraged to sign up as a mentee to partner with a professional mentor during the meeting. Opportunities for professional mentors and student mentees to informally interact include:
  1. Saturday golf tournament
  2. Helping on Sunday with the youth fishing tournament at TFFC.
  3. Sign up together for continuing education workshops (free on Sunday),
  4. Cain Conference Center has sports facilities available throughout the conference for informal groups. Also, if enough interest is shown in some sports (e.g., basketball, volleyball, running, or swimming, others?), we can hold a team competition on Sunday. A sign-up sheet will be available at registration.
  5. The Sunday Night Social Mixer at the TFFC is a great time to talk to professionals about your career goals and to find out what opportunities are available and the skills and background needed to fill them.
- Students are encouraged to apply for the Texas Chapter AFS Scholarships. Two graduate and two undergraduate scholarships will be awarded. Value of each award will range from \$500 to \$1,000 depending on available funds this year. Applicants must be Texas Chapter AFS members, and only one applicant from each school is eligible, so please coordinate applications with your advisors. Application deadline is December 1, 1997. Check the web site for application forms. Information will also be mailed to each school. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting, and asked to present invited papers on their work at next year's meeting.

## POLITICS AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Attorney Roy Hemmingway's comments to the Annual Meeting Plenary Session (reprinted from the Minnesota Chapter Newsletter).

An explanation of why decision makers do not listen to fisheries professionals.

1. Scientists conclusions change over time (one department advocates snag removal from rivers while another [or the same agency] restores habitat with woody debris).
2. Policy-makers perceive that scientists are without a constituency. It is not enough to merely represent the truth, since that is not the way to win elections.
3. Decision-makers cannot evaluate probability and risk assessment.
4. Decision-makers are not judges -- they do not have the time to weigh all the issues. That means scientists must get to the heart of an issue quickly.
5. Scientists are perceived as feathering their own nests -- stumping for support for their own programs.

Here are Hemmingway's recommended solutions so we can make science count in the political process.

1. Present science as a learning process.
2. Scientists must present evidence, not philosophy or judgements. "Just the facts, ma'am."
3. Acquaint decision-makers with the laws of probability and risk assessment.
4. Translate your technical terms into understandable language...talk plain.
5. You are in competition with many other issues and concerns. Be a salesman for your cause.
6. Admit when you are wrong. This will actually improve your credibility, since everybody is wrong now and then.





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## GONE BERSERK. THE CORMORANTS OF LITTLE GALLOO

A slightly different perspective on cormorants, from a 1994 column for NY Outdoors.

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"Cormorants are large ugly birds that eat a lot of fish and puke and crap on everything around them...but I think they're gorgeous!"

So went ornithologist Lee Harper's opening line at a recent conference on the large, black, fish eating birds with voracious appetites and lusty reproductive drives that allow them to multiply like roaches. Few examples of Mother Nature's less than orderly housekeeping have received as much attention as the explosive growth in numbers of this colonial waterbird throughout the Great Lakes. Since its arrival, the double-crested cormorant has attracted controversy and enemies as its fortunes have soared...and its population seemingly gone haywire.

No one is certain why Great Lakes double-crested cormorant colonies began increasing in the mid-1940's. Perhaps the birds were attracted to the profusion of herring feeding on an overabundance of algae -- the product of nitrate and phosphate fertilizer run off. But increase they did. So much so that alarmed commercial fishermen -- worried the birds were eating their catch -- waded into the rookeries crushing eggs, killing nestlings and burning nests.

Beginning in the late 1950's, these actions were supplanted by a more efficient form of cormorant control. The widespread introduction of DDT and subsequent DDT-induced eggshell thinning led to almost total reproductive failure in the Great Lakes colonies.

Ever since DDT was banned, the birds' fortunes have been on the rise, hastened by the soaring fortunes of the Great Lakes commercial lake trout fishery. In the 1950s and 60s, these fishermen aggressively harvested large numbers of fish, driving the trout population down and removing a threat to smaller forage fish such as alewife. Freed from predation, these smaller fish became abundant. And like brown bears at a dump, the cormorants showed up, started eating and never left.

In eastern Lake Ontario, not only did the birds find plentiful food but also a 55-acre paradise for ground nesters, which exhibit a preference for quiet, isolated spots free from predators. The birds set up housekeeping on Little Galloo Island, and began exacting a revenge of sorts for the DDT episode. Last year over 5,400 pairs of double-crested

cormorants nested on Little Galloo rookery, which translates into a clutch of eggs every 2 1/2 feet during nesting season. And it hasn't just been Little Galloo. Throughout the entire lower Great Lakes region, the cormorant populations have shown a classic logarithmic growth pattern -- from 89 nests in 1970 to close to 40,000 in 1993.

Predictably, local charter fishing boat operators have been grumbling again -- blaming their customers' decreased fishing success on cormorant predation.

"I do not think there is any species in Lake Ontario that has not been to some extent harmed by the cormorant depredation," says Ron Ditch, Henderson Harbor charter operator and head of the Concerned Citizens for Cormorant Control (CCCC).

Some of the concern stems from a highly publicized incident two years ago, which was immortalized on video by Ditch. For years, he tried without success to convince local N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service fisheries personnel that the cormorants preyed on newly stocked fish. Two years ago, he videotaped the birds as they merrily feasted on a stocking of 40,000 fingerlings. The brown trout, dumped at the water's edge, had schooled up in a warm shallow bay where they took shelter from the inclement weather for over a week. Predictably, the birds nailed the fish.

At a cost of \$1.75 per fish, and with urging from the CCCC and its smoking gun evidence, DEC and USF&WS have begun altering their stocking procedures. To reduce mortality, they began releasing larger, less stressed fish at dusk in deeper water only under favorable weather conditions.

Even though the techniques appear to be succeeding, anglers today are still catching far fewer fish. But most scientists -- including the Canadian Wildlife Service's Chip Weseloh, agree: Don't blame the birds. Even if the cormorants vanished tomorrow, he asserts, the improvement for anglers would be insignificant.

In fact, Great Lakes fishing will never be as good as it was in the 1980s, which saw fantastic catches of exotics such as coho, chinook, as well as lake trout and brown trout. The reason is that alewife, the favorite forage of salmon and trout as well as cormorants, will never be as plentiful in the Great Lakes as they once were. Better pollution controls have thankfully ended artificially high nutrient loading which had created what in effect was a giant watery feedlot for the alewife and the fish that dined on them.

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"It was a very productive system," observes Dieter Busch, Chief of the USF&WS's Lower Great Lakes Fisheries Office, "but very artificial."

Science has no easy answers, however, for the problem of cormorant predation on smaller native fish. The average Great Lakes fisherman comes to camp by the water and enjoys motoring out in the morning to catch a string of fish for breakfast. These fishermen aren't targeting exotics but native species such as yellow perch, sunfish, small-mouth bass and walleye. Scientists acknowledge these anglers do have a legitimate concern about cormorants predation on these fish, though Weseloh's research shows the amount the birds consume to be "very, very small" compared with what is consumed by the lake's larger sport fish.

Acknowledging that the cormorants were, until this year, removing something like two million pounds of forage fish from the lake annually, Busch nonetheless believes the cormorants are a part of, and necessary to, a healthy Great Lakes environment. The official, using the energy budget scheme of classic ecology, states, "Cormorants are part of natural system. And even though they are putting a dent into the energy flow of the system, it's something that I think most of us can live with if we want a healthy ecosystem. All grass could be used for cattle and beef production, but we allow some for deer. The same for the lake. There are other uses there than just allowing energy to flow into harvestable fish."

Even where the cormorants are clearly blameless, it's harder for the fishermen to acknowledge the natural environmental factors that caused the decline in fishing than it is for them to shake their finger at hundreds of big black birds gulping down fish caught in their lake. And Ditch and his fellow fishermen want some action.

"The situation is pandemic (sic)," warns Ditch. "If they want to save Lake Ontario and some of the other Great Lakes as a fishery, then they need to get on the stick and do something about it and not have another three-year study. Because at the end of the three years you might as well drain Lake Ontario and make a golf course out of it."

Ecological wisdom and Lee Harper's tribute aside, even the most devout birder would almost certainly concede that Little Galloo is a Garden of Eden only if you're a cormorant. You can smell it two miles away. The birds have destroyed nearly all of the island's natural vegetation. In its place is a smelly coating of guano and congealed cormorant regurgitant -- the undigested remains of their all-fish diet.

So few were grief-stricken over the even sloppier twist this haywire story took this spring, when the cormorants once again experienced almost total reproductive failure. The

cause may be as simple as the crash in the alewife population, which occurred perhaps as the result of the winter's severe cold.

The explanation may be something more sinister. Larger than usual hordes of biologists were observed tramping over Little Galloo day after day this year, conducting their annual census, banding chicks and examining regurgitant. The disturbance frightens the birds off their nests, leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable to the predatory gulls who swoop down and swallow them. This time, one too many ornithologists may have gathered one piece of data too many. Wildlife officials have been trying to keep this news quiet, worried lest a contingent from PETA arrive and start picketing.

No one knows what next year will bring. This past winter Busch warned that in the event the alewife population were to crash due to the severe cold, cormorants would begin eating sunfish and perch and that "the impact might be quite significant." However, Busch believes the cormorants will size up the situation before they migrate out in the fall, choosing other nesting sites next spring. Others experts aren't so sure. And if the birds resume their normally prolific breeding program, fishermen hope the federal government legalizes cormorant killing again -- a policy now in place to protect catfish farms in the South from cormorant predation.

The cormorants of Little Galloo are a classic demonstration of what can happen when nature's homeostasis goes awry. The controversy surrounding them is also a terrific illustration of what happens when science confronts fear and ignorance. Faced with a potential loss of their livelihood, people see only what they want to see. And close their eyes to what they don't. Little has changed since Galileo pleaded with critics to look through his telescope and view the obvious.



## Associate Editors Wanted

The newsletter needs associate editors in a variety of areas. The increased coverage will provide the chapter with much more information and will make the newsletter much more useful. Please volunteer for an area of interest.

Aquaculture, Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries, University, Federal Government, State Government, Business

**Remember, being active in your chapter will help you get or retain your certification. Get involved!!**



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## Mentors Needed

We encourage professionals in private, state, federal and academic jobs to sign up for the Mentor-Mentee program. The purpose of the Mentor-Mentee relationship during this meeting is to facilitate students contacting other professionals. It is our hope to encourage as many and as diverse a range of interactions as possible. Therefore, we are not specifically pairing students and professionals with similar interest profiles. This would tend to limit the diversity of possible interactions. Instead, we hope that professionals will take every opportunity to introduce students to other professionals and to initiate conversations, participation in sporting and workshop activities that will allow students and professionals to become acquainted in an informal atmosphere, and to become aware of opportunities for internships, job and educational opportunities, or other mutually profitable professional interactions.



## Presentations Please

Abstracts are still being accepted for presentation at the annual meeting in January, 1998. For those of you that are worried about publishing your work and are holding out for a wider audience, this is a reminder that submitting an abstract and doing a presentation is not considered "being published." This changes only if you submit a manuscript for publication in the *Proceedings*. Also, remember that abstracts and manuscripts are available to interested parties on our Web Page. The potential exists to reach audiences beyond our organization and our borders. Contact Joe Fries if you are interested in participating in the annual information exchange at the technical sessions.

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## 1998 TEXAS CHAPTER MEETING

*by John Prentice*

The 1998 Texas Chapter AFS meeting will be held in Athens, Texas, January 24 - 27. Meeting and trade show activities will occur at the Cain Center, 915 South Palestine St. (Phone 903-677-2000). Sunday and Monday evening social activities will occur at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC), 5550 Flat Creek Road (FM2495; Phone 903-676-2277). Along with the meeting facility, the Cain Center also offers free use of many varied sport facilities from walking/jogging trails, tennis and racquetball to indoor swimming, spa and weight room. Sunday and Monday evenings, TFFC will provide an opportunity to enjoy a tour of the wonderful aquarium and hatchery complex along with our social gatherings. Make plans to be there!

### MEETING REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION

Not only will you have the option to pre-register, I hope everyone will pre-register and there is incentive to do so. **The deadline for the pre-registration fee of \$15.00 is January 12.** After the deadline, the registration fee is \$25.00. Either registration fee includes entrance to all technical sessions, Sunday PM mixer and Monday PM social/meal/fund raiser and tours at TFFC, the continuing education workshops and trade show exhibitions. Those that pre-register will also receive a ticket for an early-bird prize drawing. There will be plenty to do at this meeting starting with golf, Athens visiting/shopping and/or a trip to Shreveport, LA riverboats on Saturday. Sunday will begin at 1:00 PM with youth fishing at TFFC and continuing education topics to choose from beginning at 4:00 PM. Technical presentations, trade show exhibitions and business meeting will fill Monday. Tuesday morning will finish technical presentations. Review the attached registration form and meeting information, and then **REGISTER**. Indicate your desire to participate in various events by checking



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off various items on the registration form. This will help better organize these events. The registration desk will be in the lobby of the Spanish Trace Days Inn Noon - 3:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00AM - 5:00PM Sunday and at the Cain Center on Monday for information.

Rooms have been blocked at **Best Western (903-675-9214)** and **Spanish Trace Days Inn (903-675-5173 or 800-488-5173)**. Room rates at Best Western are \$36.00 (single) and \$39.00 (double/king) plus tax with reservation **deadline for special rates January 15, 1998**. Room rates at Spanish Trace Days Inn are \$37.00 (single) and \$42.00 (double/king) plus tax with reservation **deadline for special rates January 4, 1998**. Be sure to identify your reservation is for the TX Chapter AFS meeting to secure the special rates.

Further details will be printed in the next newsletter sometime in December, but if you have questions, call **John Prentice (830-866-3356)**.

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## **DRAFT AGENDA - TEXAS CHAPTER AFS MEETING, JANUARY 1998**

### **1-24-98 - Saturday**

Noon - 3:00

Registration at Days Inn lobby

During day - Golf tournament

Afternoon (3:00) through evening

Trip to Shreveport riverboat and back

### **1-25-98 - Sunday**

10:00 - 5:00

Registration at Days Inn lobby area.

1:00 - 5:00

Trade show setup in Cain Center

1:00 - 3:00

Youth/member-student mentor team fish tournament at Freshwater Fisheries Center.

4:00 - 6:00

Continuing Education presentations at Cain Center meeting rooms and Trinity Valley Community College. Three 1-hour presentations

to be offered concurrently and repeated at Cain Center so everyone can have the opportunity to attend any two they choose. Also one 2-hour presentation on computer use will be offered at the same time at the community college for everyone to choose.

6:30 - ?

Social/mixer and tour of Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

### **1-26-98 - Monday**

6:30 - 7:30

Past Presidents' Breakfast at Day's Inn Spanish Trace restaurant

7:00 - 5:00

Registration at Cain Center

8:00 - 5:00

Tradeshow in main foyer Cain Center

8:00 - 10:00

Start of meeting and Invited Presentations Panel Discussion (Ecosystem Management), Meeting Room B (Henderson Room) at Cain Center

10:00 - Coffee break

10:30 - Noon

Technical presentations, Room B

Noon - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00

Technical presentations, Room B

3:00PM - Coffee break

3:30 - 5:00

TX Chapter Business Meeting, Meeting Room B

6:30 - ?

Banquet, Social/Raffle/Auction at Angler's Pavilion Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

### **1-27-98 - Tuesday**

8:00 - Noon

Trade show

8:00 - 10:00

Technical Presentations, Room B

10:00 - Coffee break

10:30 - Noon

Technical Presentations, Room B



# TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

ATHENS, TEXAS JANUARY 24-27, 1998

Pre-registration and registration at the door includes: Meeting Registration, Sunday PM Mixer, Monday PM Social/Meal/Fund raiser and Continuing Education Workshops. Pre-registration also includes a ticket for an early-bird raffle item.

Enter Amount

Pre-registration (prior to 1-12-98)	\$15.00	
Registration (after 1-12-98 and at the door)	\$25.00	
Texas Chapter Dues	\$ 8.00	
Texas Chapter Student Dues	\$ 5.00	
2-Man Boat Outfit Raffle tickets - I want _____(number) tickets	\$ 5.00 each or \$20.00 / 5 tickets	
TOTAL ----->	----->	
As a professional (1), I wish to participate as a mentor; or as a student (2), I wish to team with a mentor during the meeting	Yes (1) Yes (2)	No (1) No (2)
I wish to participate in the Shreveport LA Riverboat trip Saturday evening (indicate)	Yes Birth date: _____ I want a van ride: ____	No
I wish to participate in the TFFC youth fishing tournament	Yes	No
I wish to participate in the Fisheries Knowledge Challenge	Yes	No
I wish to attend continuing education workshops indicated (circle two or one if computer basics)	1.Computer basics 3.Fish mgt. software	2.Aquatic plant ID 4.Fish genetics
I am a student and wish to work at the meeting in exchange for lodging (circle one)	Yes	No

Make all checks payable to: The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone (Home):	Phone (Work):
Fax and/or e-mail address:	

**Mail Registration to: Dave Terre, 11942 FM 848, Tyler, TX 75707, (903) 566-1615**



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## TEXAS CHAPTER AFS MEETING REGISTRATION FORM INFORMATION, 1998:

**Saturday Golf Tournament** - Those interested are encouraged to contact Bob Waldrop (903-849-2081) or Kathy Ramos (903-592-7570). Plans, details and location are being determined. Continuing to Shreveport after the golf game can be part of your plans.

**Saturday Evening trip to Shreveport, LA Riverboats** - Those that arrive on Saturday, and want to, may go to Shreveport to enjoy the special entertainment. Be sure to pre-register. The only costs are your evening meal, gambling losses and transportation to and from Shreveport. One 15-passenger van will provide free round-trip transportation to the riverboats on a first come - first served basis through pre-registration (check at AFS registration Noon-3: 00PM Saturday - Days Inn Lobby, if you made the cut-off for a van ride request). This van will meet you at the Spanish Trace Days Inn and depart at 3:00PM. Other vehicles can meet here and caravan along with the van, or travel on their own schedule. Discount cards offered by the various casinos can be obtained for you and available at the various casinos if you indicate you want one by providing your birth date on the pre-registration form.

**Student Mentors** - This year during the meeting we want to enhance the opportunity to involve professional and student members with each other. Professionals can interact with students by participating together in the youth fishing tournament at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) on Sunday and by introducing students to other professionals and their fields of interest throughout the meeting. If you are interested in participating as a mentor or student, please sign-up, early is better. Information on mentor teams will be at the registration desk.

**TFFC Youth Fishing Tournament** - 1:00PM - 3:00PM, Sunday. Join up with a youth, or even better become a student/professional mentor team and join up with a youth to try to catch the most, largest, greatest variety, smallest, ... at the TFFC fishing pond to compete for fun prizes. Maybe you can help your youth catch a first fish and first-fish certificate.

**Continuing Education** - 4:00PM - 6:00PM, Sunday. Three concurrent 1-hour sessions will be repeated at the Cain Center to allow you to choose two to attend including: aquatic plant identification, fish genetics introduction and fish management computer software. Also, one 2-hour session at the same time on computer use basics will be conducted at a computer lab at Trinity Valley Community College. These are offered to members as part of the registration cost so take advantage of this opportunity.

**Sunday Night Social Mixer** - 6:30PM -? Relax and meet other Texas Chapter members at TFFC. Snacks and refreshments will be provided and you can enjoy a tour of the wonderful fisheries facility.

**Monday Night Meal, Social and Fund raiser** - 6:30 PM -? A return visit to TFFC will provide prizes, raffles, and auction for a chance to take home that special something to remember the meeting. Also, a Bar-B-Que dinner will be catered and another chance to tour the facility will be available.

**Fisheries Knowledge Challenge** - Challenge yourself by competing in a Fishery Trivia Bowl. Preliminary rounds are planned for the Sunday night mixer and final rounds will occur during the Monday night social.

**Special 2-Man Boat Raffle** - A complete (boat, trailer, electric motor and battery) fishing outfit will be raffled to some lucky ticket holder at the Monday night social. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward Texas Chapter trust funds to generate student scholarships. Get some tickets to aid Chapter efforts and maybe win a BOAT!

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL  
TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

☐ for the 1998 calendar year

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Field of Interest \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Send Dues to: **David Terre**  
**11942 FM 848**  
**Tyler, TX 75707**

Check the two that apply:

\_\_\_ Regular Membership (\$8/yr)  
\_\_\_ Student Membership (\$5/yr)  
(full time students only)

\_\_\_ AFS Member  
\_\_\_ Non-AFS Member

If you have an interest in serving on a committee, check one (or more) of the following:

___ Awards	___ Editorial	___ Endowments	___ Stocks at Risk
___ Issues	___ Membership	___ Nominating	___ Pond Management
___ Publicity/Exhibits	___ Newsletter	___ Exotic Species	___ Procedures Manual
___ Urban Fishing	___ Student Outreach	___ Fisheries Worker Directory	___ Fisheries Data Directory

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT ..... Kathy Ramos  
PRESIDENT-ELECT ..... John Prentice  
PAST-PRESIDENT ..... Mark Webb  
SECRETARY-TREASURER ..... Dave Terre

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

AWARDS ..... Gene Wilde  
EDITORIAL ..... Joe Fries  
ENDOWMENTS ..... Allen Forshage  
ISSUES ..... Mike Reed  
MEMBERSHIP ..... Debbie Wade  
NOMINATING ..... Bobby Whiteside  
POND MANAGEMENT ..... Malcolm Johnson  
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS ..... Jody Williams/Rick Ott  
STUDENT OUTREACH ..... Fran Gelwick

**AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

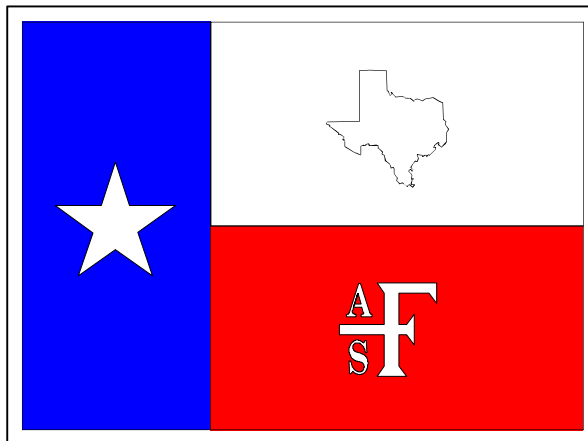
EXOTIC SPECIES ..... Stewart Jacks  
FISHERIES WORKER DIRECTORY ..... Lance Robinson  
FISHERIES DATA DIRECTORY ..... Fred Janssen  
PROCEDURES MANUAL ..... Joan Holt  
URBAN FISHING ..... Ray Whitney  
STOCKS-AT-RISK ..... Gary Garrett

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

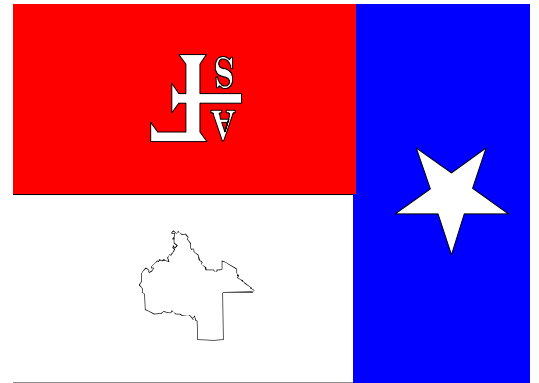
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**Next Newsletter submission deadline:  
December 15, 1997 .....1998 Meeting Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Mail a hard copy or  
email the editor at [cmunger@arn.net](mailto:cmunger@arn.net)



THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
TEXAS CHAPTER  
OF THE  
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
PO Box 835  
Canyon, TX 79015-0835

